are women. The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to threshold, sustainable level of 75% by the year 2005.

Expenditure on Adult Education Programme

990. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how long Government propose to continue the Adult Education Programme; and

(b) the amount spent on this programme during the last three years and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Government has approved the continuation of the National Literacy Mission and its schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The goal of the National Literacy Mission is to attain a sustainable threshold level of literacy (75%) by 2005.

(b) An amount of Rs. 255.08 crores has been incurred on this programme during the last three years. Literacy rate has been going up at the rate of approximately 1.8% every year as per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (53rd round).

Notification of Fake Universities

991. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are causes for the delay in notifying, only 15 fake Universities, while about 50 such institutions are under investigation;

(b) whether Government are aware that career and prospects of a large number of innocent students are endangered by the activities of such fake Universities; and

(c) if so, what effective steps have been taken by Government to create wider awareness among students and to check the educational menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) A total of 31 fake Universities were identified by the UGC in 1993. On the basis of action reports received from various State Governments, the number of such fake Universities has come down to 15 as on date. The Government of India constituted a Task Force in 1998 to examine, *inter-alia,* the relevant provisions of the UGC Act and to suggest measures to provide suitable safeguards against the incidence of fake Universities. The Task Force has since submitted its report proposing amendments to various provisions of UGC Act to tackle the problems of fake Universities effectively. Meanwhile, Malpractices Prevention Cell have been set up in the Government and in various apex educational bodies to keep a vigilant eye on various malpractices in education including fake institutions/ Universities. UGC also issues press releases at the beginning of each academic session to keep students vigilant.

Recruitment Policy in Aided Central Schools in Delhi

†992. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether teaching standard in Government schools in Delhi is going down day by day, particularly in schools aided by the Central Government;

(b) whether the Union Academy Sr. Sec. School, Raja Bazar, New Delhi is aided by Government; if so, whether the standard of teaching in that school is also going down due to wrong recruitment policy for appointment of Principal and teaching staff;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to recruit the Principal from outside as per Government rules and procedure; and

(d) the action taken/being taken to improve the teaching standard of school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.